

CALL to
CELEBRATE
CONFIRMATION

FACILITATOR'S
GUIDE

Session 1

Materials Needed to Complete Session

Session One *Call to Celebrate*
Confirmation Parent Handout

Pencils

For the opening ritual

- Bible
- Table covered with white cloth (prayer table)
- Candle and a large glass bowl filled with water on the prayer table
- A green branch for sprinkling
- Select two young people to carry the Bible and candle in procession
- Music CD for gathering prayer

Time Frame (60 minutes)

Welcome and Call to Prayer
10 mins.

Conversation One
5 mins.

Conversation Two
10 mins.

Conversation Three
15 mins.

Conversation Four
15 mins.

Closing
5 mins.

HOSPITALITY

Warmly welcome participants as they arrive and invite them to find a seat together at a table. Ask them not to do anything with the handouts until after the gathering prayer.

WELCOME AND CALL TO PRAYER 10 mins.

Welcome parents/guardians and young people. Thank them for being there and say that you hope they will enjoy some special time together with each other and with God. Invite them around the prayer table and begin the gathering prayer.

Conversation One 5 mins.

1. Direct participants back to their seats.
2. Ask them to open their *Call to Celebrate Confirmation* book to pages 4 and 5 and to place the parent handout beside it. Explain that the handout is self-directed and that you would like them to **complete steps 1 and 2.**

FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

Session 1

Conversation Two

10 mins.

1. Invite participants to turn to page 7 of *Call to Celebrate Confirmation* and page 2 of their handout.
2. Ask them to **complete steps 3-5**.

Conversation Three

15 mins.

1. Tell participants to turn to pages 8 and 9 in *Call to Celebrate Confirmation* and page 3 of their handout.
2. Invite them to **complete steps 6-10**.

Conversation Four

15 mins.

1. Tell participants that it is now time to turn to the final conversation for this gathering on page 10 of *Call to Celebrate Confirmation* and page 4 of their handout.
2. Invite them to **complete steps 11-14**.

Closing

5 mins.

1. Guide the parents to the **For Home** page that invites them to talk about being created in God's image and shares a decision making process with them. Thank the parents/guardians and young people for their participation and tell them that you look forward to seeing them on _____.
2. Conclude with the Closing Prayer on page 11 of *Call to Celebrate Confirmation*.

**CALL to
CELEBRATE**
CONFIRMATION

**PARENT
HANDOUT**

Session 1
Begins with page 2

Conversation One

Note to Parents:

This gathering is an important time for you and your child. Often, our lives are so busy that meaningful conversations, such as those about faith, are lost in the shuffle.

No doubt you are here at this gathering because you value your Catholic faith and want your child to do the same. If your child was baptized as an infant, you made the profession of faith on his/her behalf. Confirmation provides the opportunity for your son or daughter to publicly make his/her own profession of faith and be anointed with the power of the Holy Spirit so that he/she will live as a disciple of Christ.

As a Catholic parent at Baptism, you welcomed the responsibility to nurture your child in the faith and to model the living of your faith. These conversations with your child will be an opportunity for you to renew your own faith and to re-claim your commitment to living and practicing the Catholic faith.

This is indeed a special time for your family. Your child is being asked to make a choice with your direction and guidance. As you guide her/him through this process may the power of the Spirit be upon you both as you open your hearts to the presence of God who is calling each of us to fullness of life.

1. Open your *Call to Celebrate Confirmation* book to page 4. Read the *My Thoughts* box and take turns sharing responses with your child.
2. Share your answers to the following questions with your son or daughter. Why did you have him/her baptized? Why is your Catholic faith important to you?

(Potential responses: I grew up Catholic and it's part of who I am, so I wanted to share it with you. Faith is important to me and I couldn't imagine living my life without God/Jesus present in it and the Catholic Church is where I am at home).

PARENT HANDOUT

Session 1

Conversation Two

3. Remind your son/daughter of what a **covenant** is by reviewing together this background information on covenants:

In ancient times, covenants were usually entered into between rulers of two countries, between a ruler and a group of people, or between other groups or people. Entering a covenant required loyalty between those committing to the covenant. A number of special characteristics distinguish God's covenant with humans from purely human covenants:

- It is initiated solely by God and God never waivers in upholding the covenant.
 - We are not God's equal. We need God's salvation and mercy. We are made in God's likeness, but we are not God.
 - Our relationship with God that we call covenant should guide the choices we make in this life so that we can be one with God forever in heaven.
4. Turn your book to page 7 and invite your son/daughter to read aloud *Written in Hearts*. Share with him/her what steps you have taken to develop your relationship with God. Ask children to share with you what they do to grow closer to God.
5. Now, work with children to complete an acrostic for covenant as found on page 7. Help them name the ways young people live out covenant, and try to name specific ways that you see them live it out (*they are caring to their siblings or younger cousins, they are open to learning by attending confirmation preparation, and so on.*)

Conversation Three

6. Turn to page 8 and review the *Talk About It* box. Ask your child about the groups he/she belongs to. Share with him/her the groups you belong to and why you belong to them. For example, book club, school parent council, and so on.
7. Read together the section *Church As Sacrament*.
8. Now, share with your child:
 - What helps you to live out your baptismal promises? (*Potential responses: reading Scripture, going to church, etc.*)
 - What is important to you about being connected to a faith community? (*Potential responses: going to Mass helps me remember what is important, being with others who believe keeps me focused, etc.*)
9. Read together the *Think About It* box on page 9. Talk with children about their choice or possible choices for a Confirmation sponsor, and talk about the faith qualities that each sponsor offers them. (*For example, my daughter chose a family friend named Kelly to be her sponsor. Kelly is involved in the Church as someone who teaches religion sessions, has two boys whom she shares her faith with at home, etc.*).
10. Now read together the *Signs of Faith* box on page 9. Talk with your child about the name they were given at Baptism. Why did you choose that name for them? Does it have special meaning for you?

PARENT HANDOUT

Session 1

Conversation Four

11. Read together *Living It Out Today* on page 10.
12. Discuss with your child this question: What do you think makes someone blessed/saintly?
13. Ask children if they know of other saints or if they have a favorite one. Share with them a saint or holy person you admire and why you admire him/her.
14. Read together *Catholic Social Teaching* on page 11.

Then discuss:

As a household, what are you doing to promote justice? What choices and practices do you engage in or might you consider engaging in?

Consider the following:

- We stay up-to-date on justice stories in the news and discuss them as a family.
- We buy fair trade products.
- We have a foster child in another country.
- We write letters to our government (local, state, or federal) on issues of justice.
- We donate our time to organizations that serve others.

For Home

1. On page 12 of *Call to Celebrate Confirmation*, the Faith Focus section says: “We are made in the image and likeness of God.”

Think about that phrase together. How does your being made in God’s image affect how you treat one another and how you are called to treat one another? For example, do you see God when you are being unkind to someone?

2. An important part of living our baptismal covenant and commitment with God is rooting all of our decisions around how we are called to live as God’s baptized children.

God created us free, in the hope that we would always make loving choices. How often do we make choices without really thinking? Here are four things to keep in mind when making important decisions:

- Pray—Seek God’s help and guidance as you make the decision.
- Root the decision in love—The decision needs to be the most loving response for the situation. Sometimes we are deciding between two loving choices.
- Trust in the Holy Spirit—The Holy Spirit will bless you with creativity and wisdom.
- Remember to choose life—As Jesus said, he came that we might have life, and have it to the full.

Consider the following steps for the next time you make a decision as an individual or as a household:

- Name the issue/choices.
- Pray. Ask for God’s help and ask the Holy Spirit to send you wisdom.
- Gather information. What information do you have about the choices? What information do you need? Who does this decision affect? Is their input needed?
- Sort the information. Put a “U” beside something that is an unloving response, and a heart beside one that is a loving. Remember, sometimes we’re choosing between two loving responses.
- Make the decision.

**CALL to
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**FACILITATOR'S
GUIDE**

Session 2

Materials Needed to Complete Session

Session Two *Call to Celebrate*
Confirmation Parent Handout

Pencils

Ribbons that can be written on with a permanent marker and attached to the candle

For the opening ritual

- Bible
- Table covered with white cloth (prayer table)
- Candle and a large glass bowl filled with water on the prayer table
- Candles for each participant to take home
- Select two young people to carry the Bible and candle in procession and read the intentions
- Music CD for gathering prayer

Time Frame (60 minutes)

Welcome and Call to Prayer
10 mins.

Conversation One
10 mins.

Conversation Two
12 mins.

Conversation Three
13 mins.

Conversation Four
10 mins.

Closing
5 mins.

HOSPITALITY

Warmly welcome participants as they arrive and invite them to find a seat together at a table. Ask them not to do anything with the handouts until after the gathering prayer.

WELCOME AND CALL TO PRAYER **10 mins.**

Welcome parents/guardians and young people. Thank them for being there and say that you hope they will enjoy some special time together with each other and with God. Invite them around the prayer table and begin the gathering prayer.

FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

Session 2

Conversation One

10 mins.

1. Direct participants back to their seats.
2. Ask them to open their *Call to Celebrate Confirmation* book to page 16 and to place the parent handout beside it. Explain that the handout is self-directed and that you would like them to **complete steps 1 and 2**. Make sure the ribbon and markers are in the middle of the table ready to use.

Conversation Two

12 mins.

1. Invite participants to turn to page 17 of *Call to Celebrate Confirmation* and page 2 of their handout.
2. Ask them to **complete steps 3-5**.

Conversation Three

13 mins.

1. Tell participants to turn to pages 18 and 19 in *Call to Celebrate Confirmation* and page 3 of their handout.
2. Invite them to now **complete steps 6-10**.

Conversation Four

15 mins.

1. Tell participants that it is now time to turn to the final conversation for this gathering on page 20 of **Call to Celebrate Confirmation** and page 4 of their handout.
2. Invite them to now *complete steps 9 and 10*.

Closing

5 mins.

1. Guide the parents to the **For Home** page. Thank the parents/guardians and young people for their participation and tell them that you look forward to seeing them on _____.
2. Conclude with the Closing Prayer from page 23 of the *Call to Celebrate Confirmation*.

COACHING PLAN

**CALL to
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**PARENT
HANDOUT**

Session 2
Begins with page 14

Conversation One

Thank you for coming to spend time in conversation with your sons/daughters as they prepare for Confirmation. This session began with a prayer service about light. The Church has always associated Christ with light—Jesus’ teachings light the way to true happiness and his example lights our path to being faithful disciples.

1. Turn to the *My Thoughts* box on page 16, and invite children to share with you their responses to the questions there. Share with them what part of the prayer service you liked best or what you felt as you listened to God’s Word from the Gospel of Matthew or during the distribution of the candles.
2. Take a piece of ribbon and a permanent marker from your table. Write on the ribbon how you and your son/daughter think he/she reflects the light of Christ to the world. Once you’ve written on the ribbon, attach it to the candle your child received at the opening prayer service.

PARENT HANDOUT

Session 2

Conversation Two

3. Read together the first *Talk About It* box on page 17 and then share stories of being in the dark. For example, the power went out when I was in the shower, we were camping once and the battery in the flash light suddenly died, and so on.
4. Read together *Faith and Light* on page 17 and then discuss the question in the last *Talk About It* box. *(Potential responses: When someone I love dies, I trust that they are going to be with God. I do my part to help the world but trust in God's love for it as I cannot fix everything, and so on).*
5. Our lives are often so busy that it's difficult to find time to stop and be with God. As a result, we often lose our "channel." That is, we often forget to let the faith channel guide who we are and how we relate to those around us. Talk with your child about finding moments to re-charge your channel so that your faith guides you. How do you find these moments? What do you like to do in those moments? *(For example, perhaps you get up 10 minutes early each day to sit with a cup of coffee in the silence of the house to seek guidance on your day. Or, perhaps you take a walk after lunch to think).*

Make a commitment with your child for both of you to take 5 to 10 minutes a day over this next week to tune into your faith channel and then talk about it after the week has passed. Did you succeed? Did it make a difference in your life?

Conversation Three

6. Read together the Scripture passage on page 18 and then read the commentary below it. Share your responses to this question: When have you recognized and responded to God's call to faith? (*Potential responses: I gave some money to a beggar on my way to work...I helped out a friend at school when someone was picking on him...The parish was looking for volunteers to be lectors so I signed up...I ate lunch with someone having a bad day*).
7. Share with your child when you find it hard to live out your faith (name specific circumstances) then invite children to name when they find it hard to live out their faith. (*Adult potential responses: At work when I lose my patience with a co-worker...at home when I'm tired and the kids are not listening. Young people potential responses: when my peers push me to do something I know is wrong, when I know I should help someone but choose not to*).
8. Read together *Jesus Stills the Storm* on page 19. Discuss the questions that follow: What is Jesus' message to the Apostles about belief? (*Potential response: Faith/belief needs to be there through the good times and hard times*).

How can this reading help your faith? (*Sometimes when times got hard, even the disciples forgot to trust in Jesus. We can take consolation in knowing that even when we fail to live out our faith, Jesus will not abandon us but will stay with us and calm our fears*).

PARENT HANDOUT

Session 2

Conversation Four

9. Work with your son or daughter to complete the following word search. What do we do in a community to nurture and strengthen our faith?

Communal Faith

i	d	e	e	r	c	e	h	t	m	i	a	l	c	o	r	p	l
m	e	s	h	e	r	t	a	t	s	n	o	e	a	h	o	u	r
s	p	e	t	h	m	p	e	f	a	g	e	o	u	s	a	l	n
y	a	u	s	t	p	h	i	p	u	r	a	o	r	n	i	a	c
y	s	c	e	o	e	o	a	n	r	s	r	a	f	e	c	e	b
l	e	a	r	n	a	b	o	u	t	o	u	r	f	a	i	t	h
t	u	s	v	a	a	p	r	f	m	s	t	t	r	i	y	e	t
l	c	e	e	e	m	m	n	h	i	c	t	p	t	b	t	l	m
t	h	o	o	n	s	e	p	y	a	m	r	p	u	g	f	h	a
e	a	a	t	o	r	c	n	t	t	c	a	f	c	l	t	i	t
v	r	e	h	t	e	g	o	t	y	a	r	p	l	h	c	y	e
e	i	h	e	r	e	a	y	m	s	o	f	m	r	t	o	r	t
f	s	p	r	o	c	l	a	i	m	o	u	r	f	a	i	t	h
o	t	e	s	p	v	f	n	s	o	u	n	m	u	h	o	r	h
i	t	m	p	p	c	h	o	a	p	i	n	l	o	s	c	b	c
p	e	m	n	u	s	e	a	p	m	f	u	i	h	u	a	e	p
u	p	u	o	s	t	r	o	a	u	n	o	o	t	r	t	r	o
m	i	o	r	a	s	e	t	m	h	m	i	i	s	y	o	h	o

learn about our faith

pray together

serve others

Eucharist

sacraments

community

proclaim our faith

proclaim the creed

support one another

10. How has being part of a community nurtured your faith? Share with your child why you are connected to the Catholic community. *(Potential responses: being with others who believe helps me remember how I want to live as a disciple of Jesus, celebrating the sacraments strengthens me for the journey, and so on).*

COACHING PLAN

**CALL to
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**PARENT
HANDOUT**

Session 2

For Home

1. Read together the story of Ita Ford on page 22. Then, read the *Living it Out Today* feature.
2. Do you know of anyone who reminds you of Ita Ford or demonstrates some of her qualities?
3. Read together the prayer found below *Ritual Focus* on page 24.

FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

Session 3

Materials Needed to Complete Session

Session Three *Call to Celebrate*
Confirmation Parent Handout

Pencils

For the opening ritual

- Bibles for each pair (Conversation Two)
- Table covered with white cloth (prayer table)
- Candle and a large glass bowl filled with water
- Select young people to carry the Bible and candle in procession and read the intentions.
- Music CD for gathering prayer

Time Frame (60 minutes)

Welcome and Call to Prayer
10 mins.

Conversation One
10 mins.

Conversation Two
15 mins.

Conversation Three
10 mins.

Conversation Four
10 mins.

Closing
5 mins.

HOSPITALITY

Warmly welcome participants as they arrive and invite them to find a seat together at a table. Ask them not to do anything with the handouts until after the gathering prayer.

WELCOME AND CALL TO PRAYER **10 mins.**

Welcome parents/guardians and young people. Thank them for being there and say that you hope they will enjoy some special time together with each other and with God. Invite them around the prayer table and begin the gathering prayer.

Conversation One **10 mins.**

1. Direct participants back to their seats.
2. Ask them to open their *Call to Celebrate Confirmation* book to page 28 and to place the parent handout beside it. Explain that the handout is self-directed and that you would like them to **complete steps 1 and 2.**

FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

Session 3

Conversation Two

15 mins.

1. Invite participants to turn to pages 30 and 31 in *Call to Celebrate Confirmation* and page 2 of their handout.
2. Ask them to **complete steps 3-5**.

Conversation Three

10 mins.

1. Tell participants to turn to pages 32 and 33 in *Call to Celebrate Confirmation* and to page 3 of their handout.
2. Invite them now to **complete steps 6-8**.

Conversation Four

15 mins.

1. Tell participants that it is now time to turn to the final conversation for this gathering on page 34 of *Call to Celebrate Confirmation* and page 4 of their handout.
2. Invite them now to **complete steps 9-10**.

Answer to Crossword Puzzle:

Across:

- 2.wind
- 5.promise
- 6.paraclete
- 8. trinity
- 9. God

Down:

- 1.venerable
- 3.Christ
- 4.truth
- 7. adoption

Closing

5 mins.

1. Guide the parents to the **For Home** page. Thank the parents/guardians and young people for their participation and tell them that you look forward to seeing them on _____.
2. Conclude with the Closing Prayer from page 35 of *Call to Celebrate Confirmation*.

COACHING PLAN

**CALL to
CELEBRATE**
CONFIRMATION

**PARENT
HANDOUT**

Session 3
Begins with page 26

Conversation One

Thank you for coming to spend time in conversation with your son/daughter as they prepare for Confirmation. This session began with a prayer service that included a blessing of the young people by marking a Sign of the Cross on their forehead. When we are marked with the Sign of the Cross, we are reminded that we have been claimed for Christ, marked and set apart as his disciples. The cross is a sign of God's love and victory over sin and death.

1. Read together *Signs of Faith* on page 28. Now, share your response to this question: What was it like for you to be marked with the Sign of the Cross in the opening prayer service? As a parent, what was it like for you to either do the marking or be by their side when they were marked?
2. Revisit the prayer intentions from the opening prayer service on page 27. Which of the four intercessions do you most identify with? Why? Ask children which one they most identify with and why.

PARENT HANDOUT

Session 3

Conversation Two

3. Read together *Think About It* on page 30. How do you feel when a loved one has to go away? How do you think the disciples felt after Jesus told them he was going away?

4. Read together *Another Advocate* on page 30. Then, discuss the two questions:

Why did the Apostles need encouragement? (*Possible response: They felt like they were going to be left alone with no guidance*).

In what ways do you want the Holy Spirit to be an advocate for you? (*Possible response: I want the Spirit to live in the voices of those who guide me to do what is right*).

5. Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit as “advocate” and Scripture offers us several other names. Turn to *Share the Word* on page 31. Choose one title of the Holy Spirit with your son/daughter, read the Scripture, then write a prayer together using this template to help you:

Spirit of _____(insert your title)

You bless us with _____(name a blessing in your life)

Help us to _____(name what you need assistance with)

We ask this prayer, in the name of Jesus the Risen Lord, Amen.

Conversation Three

6. Look together at the *Think About It* box on page 32. Share your image of God and encourage children to share their image of God with you. (*Possible responses: When I pray I see God as a kind grandfather sitting in his rocking chair visiting with his grandchildren. When I pray I see God as strong and mighty, able to lift me up when times get tough.*)
7. Invite your son/daughter to read aloud *Work of the Holy Spirit* on page 32. Work together to underline the four things described as the work of the Holy Spirit.
8. Turn to page 33 and read together *Symbol of the Holy Spirit*. Then, discuss the question. (*Possible responses: The Spirit is like a gentle breeze, refreshing me on a hot day. The Spirit is like a strong wind in my life, pushing me to change directions.*)

PARENT HANDOUT

Session 3

Conversation Four

9. Explore the life of Venerable Pierre Toussaint by reading together his Bio Stats and the *Living It Out Today* on page 34. (Note: Venerable is the first step in the process of naming an individual a Saint in the Catholic Church. The next step is beatification, at which point the person is referred to as “Blessed,” and then finally canonization, at which point the person is referred to as “Saint.”)

Share your responses to these questions:

- What obstacles did Pierre overcome to serve others? *(Possible responses: He was a black man helping others in a world prejudiced against blacks).*
- What difference do you think his actions made to the world? *(Possible responses: He bought the freedom of many enslaved people, took orphans into his home, and risked his own life to care for others during a fever epidemic).*

10. As a review of this exploration of the Holy Spirit, work together to complete this crossword puzzle:

	1		2							3		
							4					
						5						
6			7									
			8									
		9										

ACROSS

2. breezy symbol of the Holy Spirit
5. opportunity and possibility
6. intercessor, helper, advocate
8. in one God, three Persons
9. Jesus, Holy Spirit, and _____

DOWN

1. first step in process to becoming a saint
3. the anointed one
4. opposite of falsehood
7. act of taking on something

COACHING PLAN

**PARENT
HANDOUT**

Session 3

For Home

1. Explore the Share Together section on page 37.
2. Close with the prayer found below *Ritual Focus* on page 36.

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FACILITATOR'S
GUIDE

Session 4

Materials Needed to Complete Session

Session Four *Call to Celebrate*
Confirmation Parent Handout

Pencils

For the opening ritual

- Bible
- Table covered with white cloth (prayer table)
- Candle and a large glass bowl filled with water on the prayer table
- Select young people to carry the Bible and candle in procession and read the intentions
- Music CD for gathering prayer

Time Frame (60 minutes)

Welcome and Call to Prayer
10 mins.

Conversation One
10 mins.

Conversation Two
10 mins.

Conversation Three
15 mins.

Conversation Four
10 mins.

Closing
5 mins.

HOSPITALITY

Warmly welcome participants as they arrive and invite them to find a seat together at a table. Ask them not to do anything with the handouts until after the gathering prayer.

WELCOME AND CALL TO PRAYER 10 mins.

Welcome parents/guardians and young people. Thank them for being there and that you hope they will enjoy some special time together with each other and with God. Invite them around the prayer table and begin the gathering prayer.

Conversation One 10 mins.

1. Direct participants back to their seats.
2. Ask them to open their *Call to Celebrate Confirmation* book to pages 40 and 41 and to place the parent handout beside it. Explain that the handout is self-directed and that you would like them to **complete steps 1 and 2.**

FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

Session 4

Conversation Two

10 mins.

1. Invite participants to turn *Call to Celebrate Confirmation* to page 43 and their handout to page 2.
2. Ask them to **complete steps 3 and 4.**

Conversation Three

15 mins.

1. Tell participants to turn to pages 44 and 45 in *Call to Celebrate Confirmation* and page 3 of their handout.
2. Invite them to now **complete steps 5-7.**

Conversation Four

10 mins.

1. Tell participants that it is now time to turn to the final conversation for this gathering on pages 46 and 47 of *Call to Celebrate Confirmation* and page 4 of their handout.
2. Invite them to now complete Conversation Four consisting of **steps 8 and 9.**

Closing

5 mins.

1. Guide the parents to the **For Home** page. Thank the parents/guardians and young people for their participation and tell them that you look forward to seeing them on _____.
2. Conclude with the Closing Prayer on page 47 of *Call to Celebrate Confirmation*.

**CALL to
CELEBRATE**
CONFIRMATION

**PARENT
HANDOUT**

Session 4

Begins with page 38

Conversation One

Thank you for coming to spend time in conversation with your son/daughter as they prepare for Confirmation. This session began with a prayer service that included a laying on of the hands in blessing. The ritual of the laying on of the hands is an outward sign that signifies the invisible reality of calling down the Holy Spirit. We cannot physically see the Holy Spirit, but the laying on of the hands helps us to experience the Spirit's presence.

1. Open your *Call to Celebrate Confirmation* book to page 40 and read together *Signs of Faith*. Then share your responses to the question. Parent/guardian: If you were involved in the laying on of hands during the prayer, share how that experience affected you.
2. Now look at *The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit* on page 41. Work with your child as you read through the first two columns, then share your responses to the phrases in the third column. Here are some responses to get you started:

With wisdom I...would make good decisions...think before I speak...

With understanding I...would get where my friend is coming from...know how to help someone out...

With right judgement I...would make good decisions...think before I act...

With courage I...would take on situations that are scary like at school when someone is bullying...

With knowledge I...would know more about my faith and live it more deeply...

With reverence I...would work hard to listen to God speaking to me...

With wonder and awe I...would appreciate the beauty that is around me...

PARENT HANDOUT

Session 4

Conversation Two

3. Read together *Talk About It* on page 42. Share with your son/daughter what fears you have discussing your faith. (*For example, do you avoid discussing it at work because it may negatively impact your relationships there? Are you scared to bring faith into family discussions because you're not sure you know enough about your faith?*)
4. Read the first paragraph on page 43 along with the section called *Spiritual Gifts*. Spend a few minutes sharing with each other about the gifts you see in each other and talk about ways you could share your gifts with others.

Conversation Three

5. Explore together the *Faith Focus* on page 44.
6. Remember that change/conversion is often a gradual process. Review the *Think About It* section on page 44 and share your responses with each other. When did you change and become more like a disciple? (*Potential adult responses: After you were born, I realized I needed to take my faith more seriously as I would be modeling it to you...One Sunday at church I heard the pastor say how important it is for us to share our gifts in the community so I signed up to be a Eucharistic minister...*)
7. Read together the section on *Evangelization* on page 45. Then, review the definition of **evangelize** in the glossary (page 114).

Work together to create an acrostic for the word evangelize, using words that will help you explain what it means to others. For example:

E – Everyone. God's good news needs to be shared with everyone, everywhere.

V –

A –

N –

G –

E –

L –

I –

Z –

E –

Note: if the v and z are challenging to you, use them as part of a word instead of a first letter. For example, v might be part of love of God.

PARENT HANDOUT

Session 4

Conversation Four

8. Read together the story of Blessed Kateri by reading both the *Bio Stats* and the *Living it Out Today* on page 46.

Share your responses to these questions:

- What characteristics of Kateri would you identify with or do you admire most?
- What do you see as the most important factor in Jessica's choice for a Confirmation name?

9. Catholic social teachings are an important part of who we are. Read together *Care for God's Creation* on page 47. Talk about:

- What do you think are the biggest challenges to nature/creation in today's world? (For example, oil spills, rain forest clearing, etc.).
- What does your family do to care for God's creation? What could you be doing? Do you recycle? Do you volunteer for community clean up projects? Do you walk or bike when you can?

For Home

1. Sometimes we're not good at affirming each other's gifts, or we take for granted that our family members know what we think of their gifts and how they share them. Take some time to create a poster for each family member. Write each family member's name in the middle of the poster and around their name list the gifts you see in each person. For example:

Joanna

Joanna I love how you laugh so easily
bringing joy into the world. Thanks!

Post their posters on each person's bedroom door.

2. Close your time together by praying the Closing Prayer on page 47.

FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

Session 5

Materials Needed to Complete Session

Session Five *Call to Celebrate*
Confirmation Parent Handout

Pencils

For the opening ritual

- Bible
- Table covered with white cloth (prayer table)
- Candle and a large glass bowl filled with water on the prayer table
- Oil of the sick, catechumens, and chrism
- Select young people to carry the Bible and candle in procession and three young people to carry the oil
- Music CD for gathering prayer

Time Frame (60 minutes)

Welcome and Call to Prayer
10 mins.

Conversation One
10 mins.

Conversation Two
10 mins.

Conversation Three
15 mins.

Conversation Four
10 mins.

Closing
5 mins.

HOSPITALITY

Warmly welcome participants as they arrive and invite them to find a seat together at a table. Ask them not to do anything with the handouts until after the gathering prayer.

WELCOME AND CALL TO PRAYER **10 mins.**

Welcome parents/guardians and young people. Thank them for being there and say that you hope they will enjoy some special time together with each other and with God. Invite them around the prayer table and begin the gathering prayer.

Conversation One **10 mins.**

1. Direct participants back to their seats.
2. Ask them to open their *Call to Celebrate Confirmation* book to pages 50 and 51 and to place the parent handout beside it. Explain that the handout is self-directed and that you would like them to **complete steps 1 and 2.**

FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

Session 5

Conversation Two

10 mins.

1. Invite participants to turn to page 52 of *Call to Celebrate Confirmation* and page 2 of their handout.

2. Ask them to **complete steps 3 and 4.**

Here is the answer to the puzzle of step 4:

oil
chrism
sick
catechumen
catechumenate
Baptism
Confirmation
sacramental
blessing
anointing

Our holy oils are signs of the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.

Conversation Three

15 mins.

1. Tell participants to turn to pages 54 and 55 in *Call to Celebrate Confirmation* and to page 3 of their handout.

2. Invite them now to **complete steps 5 and 6.**

Conversation Four

10 mins.

1. Tell participants that it is now time to turn to the final conversation for this gathering on page 57 of their *Call to Celebrate Confirmation* book and page 4 of their handout.

2. Invite them now to **complete steps 7 and 8.**

Closing

5 mins.

1. Guide the parents to the **For Home** page. Thank the parents/guardians and young people for their participation and tell them that you look forward to seeing them on _____.
2. Conclude with the Closing Prayer on page 59 of *Call to Celebrate Confirmation*.

COACHING PLAN

**CALL to
CELEBRATE**
CONFIRMATION

**PARENT
HANDOUT**

Session 5
Begins with page 50

Conversation One

Thank you for coming to spend time in conversation with your sons/daughters as they prepare for Confirmation. This session began with a prayer service that included a procession of the three oils the Catholic Church uses in the celebration of sacraments. The oil of the sick is used to anoint the sick that they may experience the healing power of Christ. The oil of the catechumens is the first oil administered in the sacrament of Baptism. Catechumen is the name given to an unbaptized person who is preparing for Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist which happens at the Easter Vigil. For infant Baptism, this anointing takes place before Baptism to strengthen and protect the baby in the power of Christ. The oil of chrism, a fragrant oil, is part of the celebration of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders.

1. We begin this conversation on pages 50 and 51 in *Call to Celebrate Confirmation*. Reflect on the prayer service you just participated in:
 - Did this experience make you wonder why we use oil in so many sacraments? Discuss with your child the possible reasons why.
 - What did you learn about the three oils?
2. Take turns naming how oil is used in your home. (*For example, olive oil is used for cooking, baby oil is used for rough skin, etc.*).

PARENT HANDOUT

Session 5

Conversation Two

3. Read together the Signs of Faith section on page 52.

Are sacramentals a part of your faith practice at home? Share how. *(For example, we light a candle when we gather for prayer...we have crosses in each room...we bless each other before we go to sleep at night).*

4. Work together to solve the puzzle below and find the phrase:

Unscramble each of the clue words. Copy the letters in the numbered cells to other cells with the same number.

OLI

--	--	--

1 38

SCRIMH

--	--	--	--	--	--

4 26 15 14

KSCI

--	--	--	--

10 41

MTCUNEAHEC

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

21 23 22 2 25 32

CAMTETANCUEHE

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

34 36 31 11 29

BTSIAPM

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

24 35 8 18

FMNITNOICOAR

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

19 20 3 42 40 7

SAACENTAMLR

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

30 33 12 27 37 17 6

SESIBGLN

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

9 13 39 28 16

NAGNITONI

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19	20	21	22	23	24	7	25	26	27	28								
24	26	29	30	31	32	33	24	1	20	35	36	37	22	7	38	Y		
39	24	40	3	41	42													

COACHING PLAN

Conversation Three

5. Read the *Think About It* box on page 54. Share your responses with each other.
6. Read and discuss the Scripture passages on pages 54 and 55. Be sure to read the paragraphs under the passages and discuss the questions.

Possible responses:

Anointing of Saul

What does God's rejection of Saul tell you about being anointed or chosen? (*We can reject our anointing or turn away from it*).

Anointing of David

Why does God tell Samuel to fill his horn with oil? (*God wants him to anoint a new king*).

What would it mean for a young person today if the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him or her? (*They would be moved to incredible things on behalf of others, they would proclaim the Good News boldly and help people come to believe*).

Anointing of Jesus

How does the power of the Spirit affect your actions? (*Helps me to do what is right, helps me to stop and think before acting*).

PARENT HANDOUT

Session 5

Conversation Four

7. Read *Anointing with Chrism* found on page 57.

8. What is our response to be a people anointed to share in God's mission? How are we living our mission in our every day lives? Explore your responses to the situations below:

- Your boss has decided to lay off two of your co-workers. You have reviewed your company's budget several times and know that if every employee was willing to give up \$50 a month, both people could keep their jobs. What are your options? What do you do?
- One of your friends is continually asking to borrow your homework because they haven't done their own. You know this friend is having a tough time at home because his parents are considering divorce. What are your options? What do you do?
- You've noticed that your elderly neighbor is having difficulty walking and maintaining her house and yard. What are your options? What do you do?

COACHING PLAN

**CALL to
CELEBRATE**
CONFIRMATION

**PARENT
HANDOUT**

Session 5

For Home

1. Turn to pages 58 and 59 and read the biography of Dorothy Day and *Dignity and Rights of Workers*.
2. Consider: Is there some service we are called to do that we have not embraced yet?

Close your time together by praying the Closing Prayer on page 59.

Enjoy more time together by watching the movie *Entertaining Angels*.

FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

Session 6

Materials Needed to Complete Session

Session Six *Call to Celebrate*
Confirmation Parent Handout

Pencils

For the opening ritual

- Bible
- Table covered with white cloth (prayer table)
- Candle and a large glass bowl filled with water on the prayer table
- Censer or other dish/container for incense
- Incense (granular) and matches
- Select young people to carry the Bible, incense, and candle in procession and read the intentions
- Music CD for gathering prayer

Time Frame (60 minutes)

Welcome and Call to Prayer
10 mins.

Conversation One
15 mins.

Conversation Two
10 mins.

Conversation Three
15 mins.

Conversation Four
5 mins.

Closing
5 mins.

HOSPITALITY

Warmly welcome participants as they arrive and invite them to find a seat together at a table. Ask them not to do anything with the handouts until after the gathering prayer.

WELCOME AND CALL TO PRAYER **10 mins.**

Welcome parents/guardians and young people. Thank them for being there and say that you hope they will enjoy some special time together with each other and with God. Invite them around the prayer table and begin the gathering prayer.

Conversation One **15 mins.**

1. Direct participants back to their seats.
2. Ask them to open their *Call to Celebrate Confirmation* book to pages 64 and 65 and to place the parent handout beside it. Explain that the handout is self-directed and that you would like them to **complete steps 1 and 2.**

FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

Session 6

Conversation Two

10 mins.

1. Invite participants to turn to page 66 in *Call to Celebrate Confirmation* and page 2 of their handout.
2. Invite them now to **complete steps 3 and 4**.

Conversation Three

15 mins.

1. Tell participants to turn to page 68 in *Call to Celebrate Confirmation* and to page 3 of their handout.
2. Invite them now to **complete steps 5 and 6**. Make sure the handout *My Journey of Faith* is in the middle of the table ready for them to use.

Conversation Four

5 mins.

1. Tell participants that it is now time to turn to the final conversation for this gathering on page 70 of *Call to Celebrate Confirmation* and page 4 of their handout.
2. Invite them now to **complete steps 7 and 8**.

Closing

5 mins.

1. Guide the parents to the **For Home** page. Thank the parents/guardians and young people for their participation and tell them that you look forward to seeing them on _____.
2. Conclude with the Closing Prayer on page 71 of *Call to Celebrate Confirmation*.

COACHING PLAN

**CALL to
CELEBRATE**
CONFIRMATION

**PARENT
HANDOUT**

Session 6

Begins with page 62

Conversation One

Thank you for coming to spend time in conversation with your son/daughter as they prepare for Confirmation. This session began with a prayer service that included a litany of the saints and a blessing with incense. The saints are the part of the Body of Christ who live in the presence of God in heaven. As we ask others to pray for us, we ask the saints to pray for us in times of need and gratitude. Incense is intended to help us remember our prayers that rise as the smoke from the incense. The rising cloud of incense is recalled in a vision of Saint John in the book of Revelation. In that vision, an angel burns a great quantity of incense as all of the saints offer their prayers before God.

1. Share with your son/daughter your reaction to the opening prayer service and invite him/her to do the same. What one or two words best describe your experience of the prayer?
2. Continue the conversation about the opening prayer by sharing your responses to:

In the reading from John I heard...

I was surprised by...

I'm not sure if I understood the meaning of...
3. Read Signs of Faith on page 64 and share your responses to the question. (*Possible responses: blessing of the gifts after the presentation prayers, blessing of the Book of the Gospels Mass, blessing of the casket at funerals*).
4. Read together *Holy People and Talk About It* on page 65. Share with your child what the word holiness means to you (perhaps it makes you think of a person in your life).

PARENT HANDOUT

Session 6

Conversation Two

3. Read together *Faith Focus* on page 66.
4. Now review *Think About It* on page 66. After your child gives his/her answer, take your turn to respond to it as an adult journeying with Jesus. What qualities about him would you find most likeable?

COACHING PLAN

**CALL to
CELEBRATE**
CONFIRMATION

**PARENT
HANDOUT**

Session 6

Conversation Three

5. Our faith is a journey. There are special moments, challenging moments, moments of faith experienced alone, and moments shared together. Read together *Faith Focus* on page 68.
6. Working together, complete the handout *My Journey of Faith* (found in the middle of your table). Move through each stop together, with both of you adding your information one stop at a time (put your initials beside what you add).

PARENT HANDOUT

Session 6

Conversation Four

7. Read together *Living It Out Today* on page 70.
8. Discuss together: How can humor be a sign of holiness?
(*Potential responses: Witnesses to the joy of God, releases tension, helps us remember what is most important*).

COACHING PLAN

**PARENT
HANDOUT**

Session 6

For Home

1. Read *Act Together* on page 72.
2. Close by reading together the quotes on the bottom of pages 72 and 73 and then discuss your impressions.

CALL to
CELEBRATE
CONFIRMATION

FACILITATOR'S
GUIDE

Session 7

Materials Needed to Complete Session

Session Seven *Call to Celebrate*
Confirmation Parent Handout

Pencils

For the opening ritual

- Bible
- Table covered with white cloth (prayer table)
- Candle and a large glass bowl filled with water on the prayer table
- Select young people to carry the Bible and candle in procession and read the general intercessions
- Music CD for gathering prayer

Time Frame (60 minutes)

Welcome and Call to Prayer

10 mins.

Conversation One

10 mins.

Conversation Two

10 mins.

Conversation Three

15 mins.

Conversation Four

10 mins.

Closing

5 mins.

HOSPITALITY

Warmly welcome participants as they arrive and invite them to find a seat together at a table. Ask them not to do anything with the handouts until after the gathering prayer.

WELCOME AND CALL TO PRAYER 15 mins.

Welcome parents/guardians and young people. Thank them for being there and say that you hope they will enjoy some special time together with each other and with God. Invite them around the prayer table and begin the gathering prayer.

Conversation One 10 mins.

1. Direct participants back to their seats.
2. Ask them to open their *Call to Celebrate Confirmation* book to pages 76 and 77 and to place the parent handout beside it. Explain that the handout is self-directed and that you would like them to **complete steps 1 and 2.**

FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

Session 7

Conversation Two

10 mins.

1. Invite participants to turn to page 78 in *Call to Celebrate Confirmation* and page 2 in their handout.
2. Ask them to **complete steps 3 and 4.**

Conversation Three

15 mins.

1. Tell participants to turn to pages 80 and 81 in *Call to Celebrate Confirmation* and page 3 of their handout.
2. Invite them now to **complete steps 5-7.**

Answer to the puzzle: Forgiveness is the highest sign of the capacity to love as God does.

Conversation Four

10 mins.

1. Tell participants that it is now time to turn to the final conversation for this gathering on page 82 of *Call to Celebrate Confirmation* and page 4 of their handout.
2. Invite them now to **complete steps 8-10.**

Closing

5 mins.

1. Guide the parents to the **For Home** page. Thank the parents/guardians and young people for their participation and tell them that you look forward to seeing them on _____.
2. Conclude with the Closing Prayer on page 83 of *Call to Celebrate Confirmation*.

COACHING PLAN

**CALL to
CELEBRATE**
CONFIRMATION

**PARENT
HANDOUT**

Session 7
Begins with page 74

Conversation One

Thank you for coming to spend time in conversation with your son/daughter as they prepare for Confirmation. The opening prayer service included an examination of conscience. Examinations provide us with an opportunity to privately reflect on our spiritual journey. It is the chance to honestly name where we are now and to imagine what we need to do in order to become more of who God intended us to be. We confront our sinfulness in order to grow in holiness.

1. Read together *My Thoughts* on page 76 and share your responses to the first question. Now, share with your child something you learned about yourself later in life that knowing sooner would have helped you to make better choices. (*For example, money isn't everything or real friends want you to be the best person you can be*).
2. Read together page 77. Then, work together to create a list of three tips for examining your conscience. (*For example, do it on a regular basis, remember it's to help you be a better person not to increase your level of guilt, and so on*).

PARENT HANDOUT

Session 7

Conversation Two

3. Read *Faith Focus* and *Called to Forgive* on page 78. Talk together about *Think About It*. Is it harder to forgive or to be forgiven?
4. Discuss: What is something you find hard to forgive in others? (*For example, you find it hard to forgive someone who betrays you or someone who lied to you.*) Ask your child to share with you a time when he/she experienced forgiveness for something he/she did wrong. After listening, share a moment in your own life when you were given forgiveness.

COACHING PLAN

Conversation Three

5. On page 80, read together the quotes from Pope John Paul II. Then, read the section on *Reconciliation* on page 81.
6. Now, share your answers to *Talk About It* on page 81.
7. Work together to complete this puzzle on Reconciliation. Arrange the tiles in the right order to spell the correct phrase. The tiles contain parts of the words or spaces (three letters, spaces, or punctuation in each tile), and when placed in the right order make complete words leading to the complete sentence. (Hint: Cross out the tiles you connect and use to make words so you know what is left).

Here's an example:

T H	F U N	T W O	Z L E	!	S A
R E	D O	W I	P U Z	T O	
P U Z	Z L E	S A	R E	F U N	T O
D O	W I	T H	T W O	!	

ANSWER: Puzzles are fun to do with two!

G H E	E N E	S .	T O	A C I	D O E
H I	S S	F O R	S G	C A P	S I G
F T	T Y	I S	H E	G I V	T H E
O D	L O V	E A	S T	N O	

PARENT HANDOUT

Session 7

Conversation Four

- 8.** Share with each other what you know about Saint Francis of Assisi. What is he most known for? What qualities of Jesus did he share with the world?
- 9.** Read together the *Bio Stats* and *Living It Out Today* on page 82. Discuss: What do you most admire about Saint Francis?
- 10.** Close by reading *Life and Dignity of the Human Person* on page 83.

COACHING PLAN

**CALL to
CELEBRATE**
CONFIRMATION

**PARENT
HANDOUT**

Session 7

For Home

1. Turn to page 85 and complete together the *Reconciliation Inventory*. Review each question one at a time, sharing your answers with each other before moving on. Challenge each other to name specific examples when possible.
2. Close by reading together the quotes on pages 84 and 85.

CALL to
CELEBRATE
CONFIRMATION

FACILITATOR'S
GUIDE

Session 8

Materials Needed to Complete Session

Session Eight *Call to Celebrate*
Confirmation Parent Handout

Pencils

For the opening ritual

- Bible
- Table covered with white cloth (prayer table)
- Candle and a large glass bowl filled with water on the prayer table
- A shared meal (such as pizza)
- Table and chairs for the meal
- Eating utensils
- Select young people to carry the Bible and candle in procession and read the intentions
- Music CD for gathering prayer

Time Frame (60 minutes)

Welcome and Call to Prayer
25 mins.

Conversation One
10 mins.

Conversation Two
10 mins.

Conversation Three
10 mins.

Closing
5 mins.

HOSPITALITY

Warmly welcome participants as they arrive and invite them to find a seat together at a table. Ask them not to do anything with the handouts until after the gathering prayer.

WELCOME AND CALL TO PRAYER 25 mins.

Welcome parents/guardians and young people. Thank them for being there and say that you hope they will enjoy some time together with each other and with God. Share with them that this gathering will explore Eucharist, beginning with the sharing of food together and ending with our challenge by the Spirit to make a difference in the world.

Conversation One 10 mins.

1. Direct participants back to their seats.
2. Ask them to open their *Call to Celebrate Confirmation* book to pages 86 and 87 and to place the parent handout beside it. Explain that the handout is self-directed and that you would like them to **complete step 1.**

FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

Session 8

Conversation Two

10 mins.

1. Invite participants to turn to pages 88 and 89 of *Call to Celebrate Confirmation* and page 2 of their handout.
2. Ask them to **complete steps 2 and 3**.

Conversation Three

10 mins.

1. Tell participants to turn to pages 90 and 91 of *Call to Celebrate Confirmation* and to page 3 of their handout.
2. Invite them to now **complete step 4**.

Closing

5 mins.

1. Guide the parents to the **For Home** page. Thank the parents/guardians and young people for their participation and tell them that you look forward to seeing them on _____.
2. Conclude with the Closing Prayer on page 95 of *Call to Celebrate Confirmation*.

COACHING PLAN

**PARENT
HANDOUT**

Session 8

Begins with page 86

Conversation One

Thank you for coming to spend time in conversation with your son/daughter as they prepare for Confirmation. Eating and drinking are often a central part of what we do when we gather with others. We often have special foods and rituals to celebrate cultural or family traditions. For example, Italians celebrate Christmas with a meal of seven fishes.

The Eucharist is a meal that is deeply rooted in the human experience of sharing food. We break bread together, share Jesus' story, and receive communion. The Eucharist is the bread of life that breaks the hardness of our hearts and strengthens us to be Jesus' disciples.

The Liturgy of the Word (the first part of Mass when we hear the Word of God proclaimed) and the Liturgy of the Eucharist (when the bread and wine become Jesus' Body and Blood and Communion is shared) together form a single act of worship.

1. Invite your child to share with you something that they liked about the opening prayer service. Then share with them how you felt during the prayer experience. Consider:
 - What was it like to share food together?
 - What do you remember most about the reading from the Gospel of John?
 - What do you think Jesus meant when he said he was the bread of life? (*Jesus is bread from Heaven, feeding all believers. When we gather for Eucharist, we gather to eat the bread of life which strengthens us for the journey and unites as a community of believers*).

PARENT HANDOUT

Session 8

Conversation Two

2. Turn to page 88 and review the *My Thoughts* questions. Then, compose your answers. (*Potential responses: We blessed it and acknowledged it as a gift from God before eating it, it was a bonding experience to share food and talk with our neighbors*).
3. On page 89, read together *Meals on the Journey* and *Think About It*. (*Potential responses: The conversation enriches our hearts and minds and often helps us to get to know one another on a deeper level*).

COACHING PLAN

Conversation Three

4. Jesus shared a lot of meals during his time in ministry. Turn to pages 90 and 91 and read about some of these important meals. Then discuss the two questions on page 91.

What do these Scripture readings tell you about the Eucharist? *(Possible responses: It is meal and sacrifice, it is Jesus' Body and Blood; Jesus is recognized through the bread and wine of Eucharist and we are recognized as his followers when we gather in his name; Eucharist unites us as the Body of Christ).*

Which of these Scripture readings best describes your understanding of the Eucharist and why?

For Home

1. **Mystagogy** is the term most commonly used for those who have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Communion. During mystagogy, the newly initiated, along with everyone in the community, are called to read the Bible and share what they have heard, participate in the Eucharist, and do works of charity (service).

Turn to page 93 and read the section entitled *Mystagogy*.

2. Some people believe that the celebration of Confirmation is an ending rather than a beginning or continuation. What do you think?

In the fullest sense, Confirmation is a beginning or continuation of one's life of faith. It is not a "graduation" from having to go to religious education, or a graduation from ever learning anything about your faith again. If anything, Confirmation challenges us to greater service in our communities and to continue to explore the teachings of our Catholic Tradition.

3. Close your time together by reading together the Closing Prayer on page 95.